

**ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE**

A method is described for protecting the traffic in a fiber optic telecommunications network, said network being of linear type and comprising at least two nodes connected by one or more spans comprising in turn working fiber and protection fiber. The method being characterized by adopting a distributed protection mechanism of the MS-SPRING type for closed-ring networks. In order to obtain all the functionalities of the protocols for linear networks, all at the nodes are instructed to disregard any command or ring failure through a Lockout of Working Channels-Ring command.